

Remarks

Claims 1-32 were originally filed in this application.

Claims 2 and 20 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 6, 9, 11, 18, 19, 21, 28, and 30 were previously amended without introducing new matter.

No new claims are added. No claims are currently amended.

As a result, claims 1, 3-19, and 21-32 remain pending for examination, with claims 1, 6, 18, and 28 being independent claims.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-19 and 21-32 are provisionally rejected under the non-statutory doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 15 and 33-36 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/712,163 (hereinafter "the '163 application").

Applicants disagree that claims 1-19 and 21-32 are patentably indistinct from claims 15 and 33-36 of the '163 application. Nonetheless, Applicants submit herewith, without acceding to the validity or substance of the rejection, a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) only to facilitate prosecution of this application. Therefore, the rejection has been rendered moot.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting is requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing Remarks, this application is in condition for allowance; a notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this Response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this Response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50/2762.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederick Wilkins, et al., Applicants

By: /elias domingo/
Peter C. Lando, Reg. No. 34,654
Elias Domingo, Reg. No. 52,827
LOWRIE, LANDO & ANASTASI, LLP
Riverfront Office Park
One Main Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142
Telephone Number: (617) 395-7000
Attorney for Applicants

Siemens Ref. No. 2003P86273US
USFilter Ref. No. USF/ION/121
LLA Ref. No.: I0168-707519